

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092536
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 /062 R

DRAFTED BY: EA/TIMBS:MDLFIELD
APPROVED BY: EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS
DSAA:JBILLINGS
EA/RA:PMU:MEILAND
PM/SAS:DROGERS

-----098874 121606Z /50/73

R 111742Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0102

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092536

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MASS, BM

SUBJECT: 57 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES & 40 MM GRENADES

REF: USDAO RANGOON 040510Z APRIL

1. DEPARTMENT (EA/TIMBS) AND DOD OFFICERS MET APRIL 6 WITH
AMBASSADOR U TIN LATT AND MILITARY ATTACHE COL. TIN AYE TO
DISCUSS SUBJECT FMS CASES. BURMESE WERE ADVISED THAT
8200 ROUNDS HIGH EXPLOSIVE (HE) AND 10,000 ROUNDS CANNISTER
AMMUNITION FOR 57 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES ARE AVAILABLE NOW.
THE HE AMMUNITION IS, HOWEVER, TO BE SHIPPED TO A THIRD
COUNTRY. USG CAN DIVERT THIS AMMUNITION TO BURMA IF
DECISION TO PROCEED WITH PURCHASE IS FORTHCOMING IN THE
NEXT FEW WEEKS. IF DECISION IS POSITIVE, PREPARATION OF
LOA AND RECEIPT OF FUNDS NEED NOT TAKE PLACE IN THIS SHORT
TIME FRAME.

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2. BURMESE WERE ALSO ADVISED THAT FUTURE SUPPLIES OF 57 MM
AMMUNITION COULD BE OBTAINED ONCE SUFFICIENT ORDERS ARE
RECEIVED TO MAKE PRODUCTION ECONOMIC (240,000 ROUNDS).

3. BURMESE INDICATED UNHAPPINESS OVER INCREASE IN COST
OF 40 MM GRENADES AND OF AIR SHIPMENT. DSAA REP EXPLAINED

THAT THIS RESULTED FROM NEW PRICING SYSTEM REQUIRING USE

OF REPLACEMENT COST RATHER THAN ACQUISITION COST IN FMS
SALES OF ITEMS USED BY U.S. FORCES./

4. TO AVOID HIGH AIR SHIPMENT COSTS IN THE FUTURE, BURMESE
WERE ADVISED TO CONSIDER LONGER LEAD TIME FOR PROCUREMENT
TO PERMIT SEA SHIPMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES (FOR TRANSSHIP-
MENT TO BURMA BY AIR OR GUB SHIP). DSAA WILL PROVIDE
HYPOTHETICAL SEA SHIPMENT COSTS ON 40 MM GRENADE CASE FOR
COMPARISON BY BURMA.

5. BASIC PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO PROVIDE GUB WITH A
USG "BEST EFFORT" AMMUNITION PACKAGE AS PART OF PROPOSED
57 MM RECOILLESS RIFLE PROCUREMENT. AS RECOMMENDED BY
EMBASSY RANGOON, WE WISH TO ENSURE THAT (A) GUB DOES NOT
INTERPRET OUR ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS AS REFLECTING ANY
POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND (B) THAT GUB BE PRESENTED
WITH ISSUE FOR DECISION TO HELP ALLAY ANY FEELING ON THE
PART OF THE BURMESE THAT USG HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING.VANCE

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